

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

1. (Currently Amended) A bioprosthetic device comprising:
a sheet of ~~naturally occurring extracellular matrix~~ small intestine submucosa; and
a sheet of bioabsorbable synthetic mesh coupled to the ~~naturally occurring extracellular matrix~~ small intestine submucosa, wherein the sheet of synthetic mesh has a rate of absorption that is slower than a rate of absorption of the sheet of ~~naturally occurring extracellular matrix~~ small intestine submucosa.
2. Cancelled.
3. (Previously presented) The bioprosthetic device of claim 1, wherein the bioprosthetic device is generally planar in shape.
4. (Currently Amended) The bioprosthetic device of claim 1, wherein the sheet of ~~naturally occurring extracellular matrix~~ small intestine submucosa comprises a top tissue layer of ~~naturally occurring extracellular matrix~~ small intestine submucosa and is coupled to a bottom tissue layer of ~~naturally occurring extracellular matrix~~ small intestine submucosa, and the sheet of synthetic mesh is coupled to and positioned to lie between the top tissue layer and the bottom tissue layer.
5. (Currently amended) The bioprosthetic device of claim 1, wherein the sheet of synthetic mesh includes a length and a width equal to or greater than a length and a width of the sheet of ~~naturally occurring extracellular matrix~~ small intestine submucosa.

6. (Withdrawn) The bioprosthetic device of claim 5, wherein the ~~naturally occurring extracellular matrix~~ small intestine submucosa is dehydrated and the length and width of the sheet of ~~naturally occurring extracellular matrix~~ small intestine submucosa is the same as the length and width of the sheet of synthetic mesh.

7. (Currently amended) The bioprosthetic device of claim 4, wherein the sheet of ~~naturally occurring extracellular matrix~~ small intestine submucosa is circular in shape and the sheet of synthetic mesh is circular in shape.

8. (Currently amended) The bioprosthetic device of claim 1, wherein the sheet of ~~naturally occurring extracellular matrix~~ small intestine submucosa comprises multiple layers of ~~naturally occurring extracellular matrix~~ small intestine submucosa.

9. (Currently amended) The bioprosthetic device of claim 1, wherein the sheet of ~~naturally occurring extracellular matrix~~ small intestine submucosa is perforated.

10. (Previously presented) A bioprosthetic device comprising:
multiple sheets of naturally occurring extracellular matrix; and
multiple sheets of synthetic mesh coupled to the naturally occurring extracellular matrix, wherein the bioprosthetic device comprises a stack of the sheets of naturally occurring extracellular matrix separated by the sheets of synthetic mesh.

11. (Original) The bioprosthetic device of claim 1, wherein the sheet of synthetic mesh is coated with comminuted small intestine submucosa.

12. Cancelled.

13. Cancelled.

14. (Original) The bioprosthetic device of claim 1, wherein the synthetic portion comprises a material selected from the group consisting of ProleneTM, VicrylTM, and MersileneTM.

15. (Previously presented) A bioprosthetic comprising:

a top sheet of small intestine submucosa comprising multiple small intestine submucosalayers, the top sheet having a first surface area,

a bottom sheet of small intestine submucosa comprising multiple small intestine submucosa layers, the bottom sheet having a second surface area, wherein the first area and second area are the same;

and a bioabsorbable mesh device having a third surface area, the mesh device coupled to and positioned to lie between the top and bottom sheets of small intestine submucosa, wherein the sheet of synthetic mesh has a rate of absorption that is slower than a rate of absorption of the sheet of naturally occurring extracellular matrix.

16. (Withdrawn) The bioprosthetic device of claim 15, wherein the third surface area is equal to the first and second surface areas.

17. (Original) The bioprosthetic device of claim 15, wherein the third surface area is greater than the first and second surface areas.

18. Cancelled.